

Don Rossi Scholarship awarded

Ferris State University student Michael Neil recently received the National Golf Course Owners Association's Don Rossi Scholarship, designed to aid students in the field of sports administration.

Neil, who is from Eugene, Ore., is a junior in the Big Rapids, Mich. school's Professional Golf Management Program. An honor student, Neil has served an internship at Portland's Waverly Country Club and is

working as an assistant pro this summer at Sunset Ridge Country Club in Northbrook, Ill.

Neil plans to spend an internship at a resort "so that I may determine which type of golf facility will make the best use of my personality and knowledge of the golf business."

Last year's recipient was Bill Anderson, who now serves as assistant executive director of the Florida State Golf Association.

Privatization backfires in Corpus Christi

By MARK SMART

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas—A broken contract for private management of the city golf courses here has left the former municipal course workers and the new private employees in limbo.

In the transition stage to privatization, from October to December 1992, 14 of the 16 municipal employees were absorbed into other city departments with a promise that they could return to golf jobs within a year if the privatization contract fell apart.

The new workers recruited by the private management company, Phoenix Group Holdings, Inc., were employed by the city in a contract labor status while the city awaited required performance bonds totaling \$4.1 million. After three extended deadlines, the contract was terminated in February, and the city continued with the new golf course workers, eventually hiring them as temporary employees.

According to Parks and Recreation Director Malcom Mathews,

the temporary workers are expected to become permanent. "We're not short of employees who want to work at the golf courses," he said.

The employment fiasco did not affect the course superintendent, however, as the position had been vacant until recently filled.

Corpus Christi opted to privatize its two courses in order to achieve the privately financed building of a third municipal course. According to Mathews, the city plans to offer private management of only a newly built course in any future negotiations.

Continental offers clubs wind and hail coverage

NEW YORK—Continental Insurance has expanded its ClubCover program for public and private golf clubs to include wind and hail coverage.

"Wind and hail storms can cause tremendous damage to a golf course facility—both to buildings and storm-sensitive greens," noted Carl Meier, vice president of commercial lines underwriting.

"Our goal in developing this new optional coverage is to protect clubs against potentially devastating losses in terms of rebuilding costs and loss of club income."

ClubCover is a broad-based package of property and liability protection available to public and private golf courses.

Public Golf '93 at Wild Dunes, Nov. 14-16

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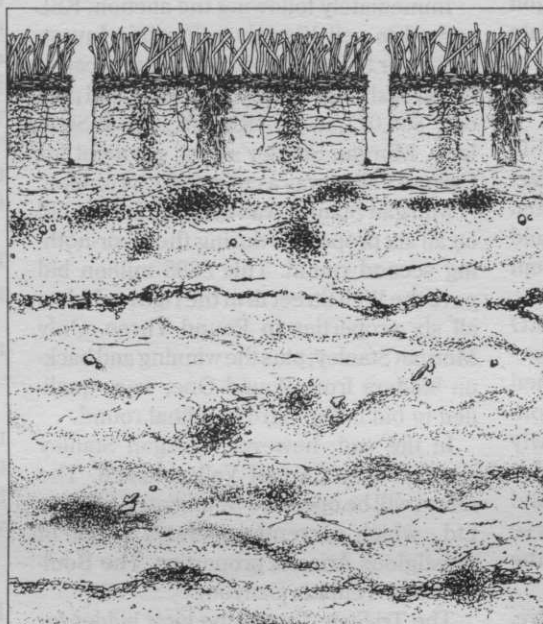
developers of public golf facilities—including daily-fee, resort and municipal courses.

"The program will provide a comprehensive look at the critical issues in management and marketing of public golf courses," Phillips said.

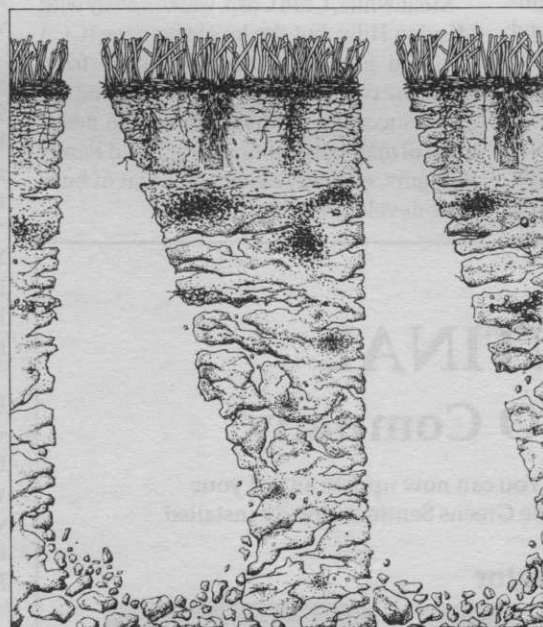
Topics include Trends in Public Golf; Management Strategies; Saving Money on Maintenance; Positioning the Golf Course for Added Value; Public Relations Strategies; and Marketing, Advertising, and Promotion on a Shoestring.

Several sessions will offer practical tips on improving the profitability of golf course profit centers, including improving margins on food and beverage, pro shop operations, cart rental, practice facilities, instruction, greens fees, and tournaments.

For more information on "Public Golf '93," contact the *Golf Course News* conference group at 207-846-0600.



The problem: After repeated shallow aeration over time to a depth of only 3-4 inches, you can build up a hard layer of compaction just below the surface.



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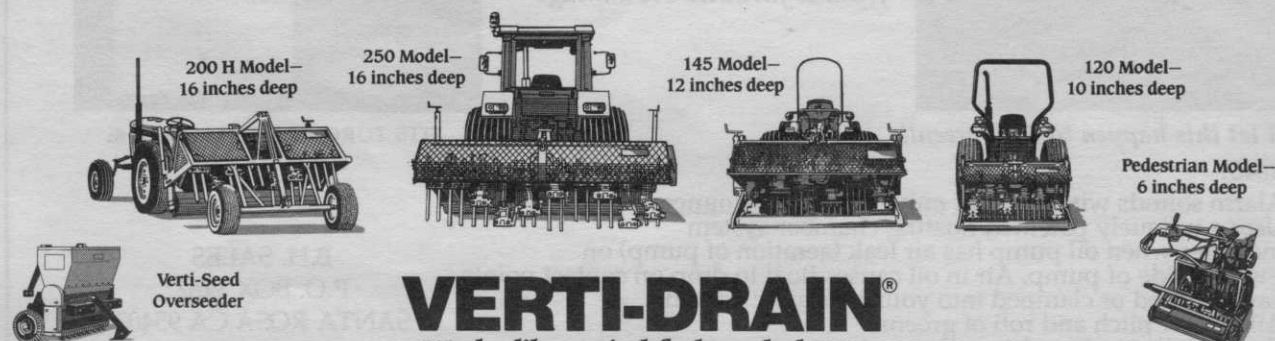
Some people believe the myth that all aeration is beneficial. But they're wrong. You've got to match the aeration technique with the soil profile. For instance, often vertical aerating equipment cuts the roots and undermines results. Other equipment makes holes too small to allow fertilizer and nutrients through or to remain open. Some devices fail to crack the core sidewalls and don't allow water to drain properly. Many turf professionals have found that aerating or punching too close to the surface can create a new subsurface hard pan.

It is sometimes better to pull cores as opposed to solid tining. To be sure, the knowledgeable turf professional recognizes that selecting the appropriate aeration technique is a complex decision involving many factors. Fine textured soils, high sand-based soils, high silt and clay content soils all require special considerations regarding deep cultivation.

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